Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SSO-00 DOTE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00

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O R 091522Z NOV 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRN, GT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN SITUATION REFERENCE: A) STATE 212146; B) GUATEMALA 5279

- 1. SUMMARY: CHARGE INSTRUCTED TO TELL FOREIGN MINISTER THAT USG BELIEVES GOG HAS BEHAVED ARBITRARILY IN PANAM CASE AND THAT, ALTHOUGH WE NOT PUTTING FORWARD A PARTICULAR SOLUTION, WE ARE REQUESTING MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. FIRM AND GOG. END SUMMARY.
- 2. IN LIGHT INTRANSIGENT GOG POSITION REPORTED REF B), CHARGE, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM USG, SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARENALES. ARENALES SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT USG BELIEVES GOG HAS ACTED UNFAIRLY WITH A U.S. FIRM IN ITS HANDLING OF THE PAN AMERICAN SITUATION. GOG REPRESENTATIVES DELAYED UNTIL VERY LATE DATE APPROVAL OF PANAM'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGES AND THEN IMPOSED ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON PAN AMERICAN OPERATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION OR EVEN REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE. PRESENTLY GOG REFUSES EVEN TO DISCUSS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESTRICTIONS SERIOUSLY. (WE REFER TO ANZUETO'S STATEMENT,

QUOTED REFTEL, THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS SCHEDULES BUT WOULD NOT DISCUSS LIFTING RESTRICTIONS.) SUCH UNFAIR

- BEHAVIOR IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND DEPARTS FROM NORMALLY FAIR AND CORRECT TREAT-MENT ACCORDED FOREIGN BUSINESSES IN GUATEMALA.
- 3. CHARGE, ON UNOFFICIAL BASIS, SHOULD POINT OUT THAT UP TO THIS POINT PANAM HAS CHOSEN TO SEEK RECOURSE LARGELY THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT WHERE GUATEMALAN INTERESTS AND VIEWS ARE UNDERSTOOD AND CONSIDERED. WE CONSIDER IT IN BOTH USG AND GOG INTEREST TO KEEP THIS MATTER IN THIS CHANNEL.
- 4. CHARGE SHOULD STRESS TO ARENALES THAT USG CONCERN RELATES TO MANNER IN WHICH THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN HANDLED TO DATE AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT BASED ON ANY PRECONCEPTIONS ON OUR PART AS TO WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A QUOTE FAIR UNQUOTE SOLUTION. WE URGE ONLY THAT MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PAN AMERICAN AND GUATEMALAN PARTIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. DEPARTMENT'S WISH HERE IS TO SERVE AS "HONEST BROKER" AND THUS KEEP THIS MATTER WITHIN REASONABLE AND MANAGEABLE BOUNDS.
- 5. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL ARENALES DEPARTMENT CONVINCED PANAM WILL NOT APPROACH NEGOTIATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS WITH A CLOSED MIND. ON THE CONTRARY THEY ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON A GIVE-AND-TAKE BASIS.
- 6. FYI: NEW ELEMENT IN PANAM POSITION IS NECESSITY FOR OVERALL SCHEDULING CUTBACKS TO CURTAIL FUEL USAGE. THUS WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD NOW BE WILLING TO ELIMINATE ALL NEW ORLEANS FLIGHS, AT LEAST FOR WINTER SEASON, IN EXCHANGE FOR RESTORATION OF FIFTH FREEDOM ON MEXICO RUNS.
- 7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CAB REPRESENTATIVE DID ADVISE WASHINGTON LAWYER REPRESENTING AVIATECA THAT AUTHORIZATION OF COMINGLING WAS RESTRICTED TO 30 DAYS IN ORDER TO PERMIT "PROBLEMS OF U.S. CARRIER WITH GOG" TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT. CAB REPRESENTATIVE TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT THERE WAS NO REACTION FROM AVIATECA NOR THE GOG ALONG THE LINES ALLEGED CONFIDENTIAL

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BY ANZUETO TO ARENALES.

8. DEPARTMENT HAS CONSULTED WITH APPROPRIATE PAN AMERICAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING POSSIBLE RISK OF ADVERSE GOG REACTION TO THE DEMARCHE REQUESTED ABOVE. YOU MAY ALSO ADVISE DAVIDSON OF SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE BUT WARN HIM, AS WE HAVE WARNED PANAM'S NEW YORK OFFICIALS, THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT OF INTER-OFFICE TRAFFIC. END FYI. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Subject: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN SITUATION TAGS: ETRN, GT, US, PANAM

To: GUATEMALA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005